



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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LOCAL FEDERAL PROSECUTORS GAIN NATIONAL RECOGNITION

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that the Department of Justice held its 25th annual Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) Director's Awards Ceremony last Friday, during which 160 award recipients were recognized for their excellence in law enforcement. Recipients included Assistant United States Attorneys, law enforcement agents, litigation and information technology support personnel, and others who have made outstanding contributions in federal, state and local law enforcement.

From the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California, three Assistant United States Attorneys were recognized for their outstanding work on behalf of the Department of Justice's priorities. Laurel White was recognized in the category of *Outstanding Individual Performance* for her superlative work on Project Safe Childhood, the Department's national initiative to protect children from online predators. Through Ms. White's efforts, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California has led the nation in the number of online child predators prosecuted over the past four years. In addition, she has devoted countless hours of her own time to help educate parents and children about the dangers of the internet and to provide those parents and children with the tools necessary to protect themselves.

In addition, Laura Ferris and Rob Tice-Raskin were recognized for work in the highest priority of the Department of Justice, the prevention of further acts of terrorism in the United States. Ferris and Tice-Raskin prosecuted Hamid Hayat, who was convicted by a jury in Sacramento of providing material support to terrorists and of lying to the FBI about his activities. Hayat attended a terrorist training camp in Pakistan and then returned to this country with the intent of undertaking terrorist acts against Americans. He was sentenced to 24 years in a federal penitentiary for his crimes. The efforts of Ferris and Tice-Raskin on this case were exemplary in terms of their hard work and professionalism.

"The attorneys, agents and staff we honor today are dedicated public servants," said Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey. "Today's award recipients are leaders in carrying out the Department's mission, and the citizens in the communities they serve should be proud of their efforts and accomplishments."

While terrorism remains the top priority of the Department of Justice, the Department has continued its mission to enforce all of our nation's laws, including prosecuting civil rights violations, gang violence and drug crimes, as well as representing our client agencies, conducting civil enforcement, and assisting victims of crime.

"I am very gratified that members of our office have received this recognition. Preventing further acts of terrorism and protecting our children from online sexual exploitation are two of the Department of Justice's top priorities. I couldn't be more proud of Laurel, Laura, and Rob

and the work they have done. These are obviously individual recognitions, but they are representative of the terrific work being done by all the people in this office on behalf of the citizens we serve. This is a great office and I am very proud to be the United States Attorney.”

The Executive Office for United States Attorneys provides oversight, general executive assistance, and direction to the 94 United States Attorneys’ offices around the country. For more information on EOUSA and its mission, visit www.usdoj.gov/usao.

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